

# Madison Valley Stormwater Project - Phase 2

*NW Diversion and Washington Park Stormwater Storage*

## **Community Drop-in Session Summary March 11, 2011**

### **Overview**

The following is a summary of comments and questions heard at the drop-in session held on March 11, 2011 at Café Flora in Madison Valley. Approximately 70 community members attended the meeting. The purpose was to hear input from the community about the construction schedule and plan for the next phase of work on E Madison Street. The work involves installation of a number of new stormwater inlets, catch basins, pipes by open trenching across E Madison Street at 29<sup>th</sup> Ave E and just to the east of City People's, as well as open trenching for the installation of a new stormwater pipe on 29<sup>th</sup> Ave E. from E. Madison St. to E. Roy St.

The first drop-in session was held on March 5, 2011 at Casa Del Caffe in Madison Valley and a third will be held on March 12, 2011 at Casa Del Caffe. Summaries of those meetings will be provided on the project web page.

### **General**

- Will daytime business access be maintained?
  - SPU answered that they will maintain access to businesses during business hours.
- I have seldom had a problem getting in and out of my driveway on 28<sup>th</sup> Ave E. IMCO staff Panda has been wonderful.
- Work to remove the boulders under E Madison St should not have happened between Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- What is the plan for street restoration on 28<sup>th</sup> Ave E? Will it get curbs, gutters and sidewalks?
- During night work, will the contractor use quieter back up alarms?
  - SPU and IMCO answered yes.
- Construction lights at night will be very bright.
- The local merchants appreciate the Madison Valley residents; they are our customers.

### **Communication and Management**

- When will the decision to do night work or day work be made?
  - SPU answered in about two weeks.
- At the meeting tomorrow, and going forward, be specific about how night work will impact residents.
- Do your best to make sure the night work goes smoothly for the community; help businesses give advance warning to customers.
- Café Flora – give me a heads up before the night work starts so that I plan ahead and help guests plan ahead.
- Please respond in writing to the letter from the Madison Valley Merchants Association.

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- Can SPU pay for banners that the businesses can hang on awnings to say something like “daytime parking available?”
  - SPU answered that they would coordinate with businesses on this.
- This is a complex project and a lot of effort is being made by the whole team. We appreciate that SPU is taking heat from all directions and it’s impossible to please everyone.
- If property damage occurs during construction, what is the plan to respond quickly?

### **Work Schedule and Hours**

- Has the decision already been made to do night work? As a resident, I want to be considered in this decision.
  - SPU answered that the decision about whether to do work at night or during the day has not been made.
- Will night work begin at 8 pm or 10 pm? I would prefer 10 pm, or even 9 pm, for my business.
- Will traffic cones and barrels be set-up begin at 8 pm or before?
  - SPU answered that set-up will occur at 8 pm, not before. No-parking signs will go into effect between 7 and 8 pm, but will be placed 48-hours in advance. No-parking hours will also be clearly printed or written on the signs.
- As a resident, night work may impact my productivity at work the next day if I can’t sleep due to noise. I would prefer night work over the weekend so that I can rest during the day.
- The condo residents on 29<sup>th</sup> Ave E have been impacted day and night during construction. I understand that night work needs to happen, but impacts to residents should be seriously considered.
- The quality of life in Madison Valley is closely tied to the businesses. Night time construction will be temporary. If the businesses close, it will be permanent.
- We want the job done quickly, with quality work and minimal impact on everyone.
- We all agree the work has to be done. We need to work together and compromise. Night work means SPU will be done faster.
- Move this along as fast as possible.
- What is the plan if night work takes longer than expected?
- I am an employee at City People’s and appreciate the residents’ concerns. Daytime work could be devastating to the local businesses.
- I have to be up at 6 am and function at work all day, so night work could be a problem if I can’t sleep. The businesses don’t open until 10 am – can work start a little later at night and go a little later in the morning?
- Is there chance of delay during the night work due to soil conditions?

### **Noise and Vibration**

- There has been a lot of noise and vibration during shoring installation, and especially during removal. Is it damaging our foundations?
- If work is done at night, what kind of noise and vibration monitoring is planned?
- I live on 27<sup>th</sup> Ave E and it felt like an earthquake during shoring removal.
- Regarding pavement breaking prior to the open trench work on E Madison and 29<sup>th</sup> – we have real concrete in this area, as opposed to asphalt. Pavement breaking will be loud.
  - SPU said that the contractor plans to use saw cutting to minimize the amount of jack hammering needed to break the pavement.
- What is the decibel level on saw cutting and when will it occur?
  - SPU did not have the exact decibel level, but will provide an answer at the next meeting. Saw cutting is planned to occur 8 pm to 10 pm.
- If noise and vibration monitoring are available during night work, please use them proactively. Don't wait until there are complaints.
  - SPU answered that they will provide someone to do noise and vibration monitoring during the construction.

### **Parking and Traffic**

- Text on the no-parking signs needs to be big enough to read safely from a moving vehicle.
- Can we be assured going forward that construction workers won't take up our parking? It is currently happening.
  - IMCO said violators should be reported directly to them so that they can stop it. However this only applies to workers' personal vehicles. Construction vehicles do need to be parked on site for the work.

### **Equipment and Equipment Staging**

- Please turn off trucks when not using them. They are loud and create pollution.
  - SPU clarified that diesel trucks can't easily be turned on and off because they are heat ignited. Leaving them idling actually creates less pollution than turning them on and off.
- I live on 29<sup>th</sup> Ave E. Much of the construction equipment staging is right in our back yard and has been throughout construction. Please reduce this staging impact as much as possible during open-trenching on 29<sup>th</sup> Ave E.

### **Questions and Comments from Comment Forms**

The following verbatim comments and questions were received at the March 11 drop-in session via hand-written comment forms.

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- [I work or own a business in Madison Valley; I live or own a business near a shaft; I live or own a business along the alignment; I use Washington Park; I prefer night work]  
“Save businesses! If people lose sleep that can be returned to them after construction. Our businesses are our livelihood. Give the residents anything they request to make them happy, so they can endure the night time work.”
- [I work or own a business in Madison Valley; I prefer night work]. Please do this as quickly as possible and decide quickly. “As a co-owner of City People’s, we need our street back to normal for our spring season. Ensure that construction workers do not park on Madison. Sign that parking is available during the day. Notify us of timelines.”
- [I live in Madison Valley; I work or own a business in Madison Valley; I live or own a business near a shaft; I use Washington Park; I prefer night work]. “Your daytime plan will put me out of business. Nighttime is the adult thing to do. Loss of sleep or loss of businesses.”
- [I live in Madison Valley; I work or own a business in Madison Valley; I live or own a business near a shaft; I prefer night work]. “Businesses can’t take anymore.”
- [I live in Madison Valley; I work or own a business in Madison Valley; I prefer night work; Other: Noise abatement]. “I hope 28<sup>th</sup> E will be surfaced soon.”
- [I work or own a business in Madison Valley; I use Washington Park; I prefer night work]. “I really appreciate the City’s willingness to work with the businesses and residents on this issue. I feel that SPU really listened to everyone. They sought out everyone’s opinion and mitigated a very hard reality to the best of their ability. I especially appreciated Linda’s ability to listen and react to our requests, even when stated in an angry way. I really appreciate that the City is working to prevent our businesses from losing customers even though it is more expensive for the City during this hard economy where budgets are being slashed. City People’s has parking issues even when there isn’t any construction and construction during the day really would severely impact our business.”
- [I work or own a business in Madison Valley; I prefer night work from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.]  
“Over the last five years our business has weathered a series of construction projects along Madison. The City has made little effort to minimize the impact of these projects on local businesses. We are currently reeling from this, not to mention the recession. We are a local business that provides benefits and profit-sharing to its full time employees. We are also a green business certified by Envirostar. We are exactly the kind of business that the City of Seattle and the Mayor claim they would like to support. Daytime construction along Madison in the spring would be devastating to our business. Spring is the season that supports our nursery through the rest of the year. How can the City be so heartless as to deliberately destroy a business that provides good jobs in such a tumultuous time economically?”
- [I work or own a business in Madison Valley]. “All nurseries in the Puget Sound have had low annual sales these past three years due to cold, wet springs and summers. If the construction work takes place in daylight hours our parking will be severely impacted,

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hence lower sales in our busiest season which could be the final straw for City People's Garden Store. Please postpone or conduct work during night hours. Thank you."

- [I live in Madison Valley; I live or own a business near a shaft; I prefer day work; Other: As long as they don't work after 9:00 p.m.]. "Please put in a real concrete street north of E Madison and not that tar! And I do have an interior crack on my kitchen wall – on the north wall."
- [I live in Madison Valley; I live or own a business near a shaft; I prefer day work; Other: Work must cease/desist by 9:00 PM if for any reason noise will be similar to shafts at Mercer and Arthur Place]. 'If' there is no unbearable noise after 10:00 PM, I will look forward to the end of this project. 'If' it doesn't work that way there needs to be a 'quick' resolution."
- [I work or own a business in Madison Valley; I prefer night work]. "I think it is shameful that the City would jeopardize the livelihood of so many employees when night work is possible. I know residents don't want the noise, but this seems to be a small sacrifice in this economy. So that we don't lose our jobs. What kind of city do we want to live in?"